



MAY
NO. 25

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

12¢

**"CAPTIVES of the
ALIEN HUNTER!"**

OUR SPACE PET, **COSMO**,
IS RESCUING US FROM
THAT ALIEN'S TRAP--BUT
HE'S ABOUT TO BE
DESTROYED HIMSELF!



ALSO
**"RETURN of
the MIGHTY
PHARAOH!"**

OUT OF THE PAST HE MARCHED,
A KING WHO HAD RULED HIS
PEOPLE WITH FANTASTIC
POWERS OVER 5,000 YEARS
AGO! HE VOWED VENGEANCE
UPON THOSE WHO HAD ROBBED
HIM OF HIS MOST PRECIOUS
POSSESSION--AND IT WAS
UP TO THE CHALLENGERS
TO AVERT THE ULTIMATE
CATASTROPHE RESULTING
FROM THE...

RETURN of the INVINCIBLE PHARAOH

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

YES, PHARAOH,
HE'S THE ONE
WHO DEFILED
YOUR TOMB!

SO, IT WAS YOU
WHO STOLE MY
GREATEST
TREASURE!
FOR THIS YOU
SHALL DIE!

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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, No. 25 April-May, 1962. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 375 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y. Editor: Jack Schiff; Associate Editors: Murray Ballinoff, George Kashdan. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S., 90c including postage. Foreign, \$1.80 in American funds. For advertising rates

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Printed in U.S.A.



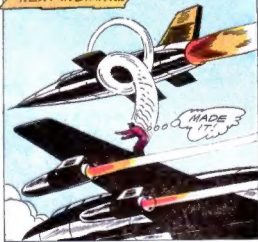
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



HIGH ABOVE AN AIRFIELD IN THE FINAL THRILLING ACT OF A CHARITY AERIAL SHOW, A FAMILIAR PLANE APPEARS...



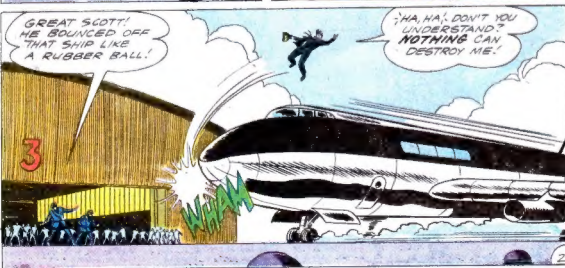
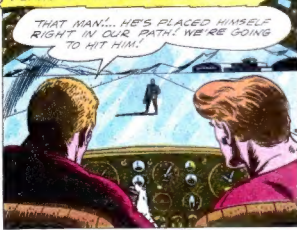
NEXT INSTANT...



BUT BELOW, THE AERIAL DRAMA IS INTERRUPTED BY A STARTLING SCENE...



AT THAT MOMENT, AS ACE BRINGS HIS PLANE IN FOR A LANDING...





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION, THE FANTASTIC FELON ESCAPES--AND SHORTLY...

TWICE THAT MAN SHOULD HAVE DIED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SAVED HIM!

I THINK I DO, ACE! REMEMBER THAT NEWS STORY ABOUT PROFESSOR LUNDQUIST, THE EGYPTOLOGIST, BEING ROBBED TWO DAYS AGO?



YES, PROF.. HE BROUGHT SOME BITS OF ANTIQUARY BACK FROM EGYPT RECENTLY--AND HIS ASSISTANT, A MAN NAMED TORBERT, STOLE SOME OF THEM!

TORBERT STOLE ONLY ONE THING--A FLASK SUPPOSEDLY CONTAINING THE IMMORTALITY FLUID OF PHARAOH TUT ABA!



"LEGEND SAYS HE WAS OF COMMON BIRTH--A GIANT OF A MAN, WITH AMAZING MAGICAL POWERS..."



LOOK YOU! TUT ABA MAKES FLAMES COME FROM THE VERY STONE OF THE PYRAMID!

"SOON, HIS GREAT FEATS MADE HIM PHARAOH--AND HE CHOSE A QUEEN, LASANDRA, WITH WHOM HE RULED WISELY."

WHAT SAY YOU TO THE PROBLEM OF THIS UNHAPPY FELLAH, LASANDRA?

IS IT NOT STRANGE HOW THE PHARAOH CONSULTS HIS WOMAN AS THOUGH SHE WERE HIS EQUAL? SHOULD SUCH THINGS BE?



"THEN, ONE DAY, LASANDRA BECAME DEATHLY ILL--AND TUT ABA DETERMINED TO USE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE TO SAVE HER..."

AHH...I HAVE SUCCEEDED! THE LIQUID GLOWS LIKE THE VERY SUN! THIS IS THE FLUID THAT CAN GIVE LIFE!

GOOD PHARAOH, YOU MUST HAVE A MORSEL TO EAT! FOR THREE DAYS YOU HAVE NOT TASTED FOOD!





"SUDDENLY, THE SERVANT STUMBLED-- HIS TRAY UPSET THE BOWL OF CHEMICALS, SPLASHING THEM INTO THE FIREPLACE, AND..."

AGGGH!

BAROOM



THE EXPLOSION KILLED TUT ABA... AND LEGEND SAYS THAT AT THE SAME MOMENT, HIS QUEEN DIED, MILES AWAY!

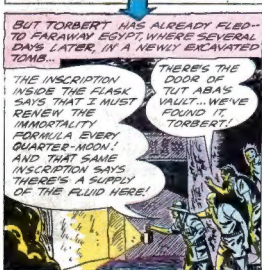
A VERY ROMANTIC STORY, PROF... BUT THIS MAN TORBERT IS NO ROMANTIC! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIS HIDEOUT, FAST!



STRAINING MIGHTILY, THE FOUR MEN SUCCEED IN SWINGING OPEN THE STONE DOOR...

TUT ABA AND HIS QUEEN, JUST LIKE YOU SAID, TORBERT! BUT LOOK-- THIS PLACE HAS BEEN RANSACKED!

YES, VANDALS MUST HAVE STOLEN THE PHARAOH'S PERSONAL TREASURES CENTURIES AGO! BUT THEY DIDN'T GET THE LIFE LIQUID, OR HISTORY WOULD HAVE LEARNED OF IT! QUICKLY, SEARCH EVERYWHERE... I CAN ALREADY FEEL THE POWER DRAINING FROM ME!



BUT TORBERT HAS ALREADY FLED-- TO FARAWAY EGYPT, WHERE SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN A NEWLY EXCAVATED TOMB...

THE INSCRIPTION INSIDE THE FLASK SAYS THAT I MUST RENEW THE IMMORTALITY FORMULA EVERY QUARTER-MOON! AND THAT SAME INSCRIPTION SAYS THERE'S A SUPPLY OF THE FLUID HERE!

THERE'S THE DOOR OF TUT ABA'S VAULT... WE'VE FOUND IT, TORBERT!

MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE SCORCHING DESERT SANDS...

GOOD THING YOU SPOTTED THAT RECEIPT FOR \$20,000 WORTH OF EGYPTIAN POUNDS IN TORBERT'S HIDEOUT, ACE!

LET'S HOPE YOUR HUNCH IS RIGHT, PROE, ABOUT HIS HEADING FOR THE AREA WHERE TUT ABA'S TOMB IS BELIEVED TO BE!



AND SOON, NOT FAR FROM THE TOMB...

YES, EFENDI, MEN IN SEARCH OF TUT ABA'S TOMB WENT BY HERE RECENTLY! IF YOU FOLLOW THEM, THIS ANCIENT DIAGRAM OF THE TOMB'S PASSAGEWAYS MAY HELP YOU!

HMM... THIS MUST HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM THE TOMB LONG AGO! THANK YOU, OLD MAN!



BUT EVEN AS THEY START THEIR SEARCH...

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE LEFT WHERE THE LIFE FLUID COULD BE--INSIDE TUT ABA'S MUMMY CASE ITSELF! OPEN IT, SLADEN!

IF YOU SAY SO, TORBERT... BUT THIS JOINT IS STARTING TO GIVE ME THE CREEPS!



HE-- HE'S ALIVE!

THIEVES! VANDALS! YOU HAVE PILLAGED THE RESTING PLACE OF TUT ABA AND HIS QUEEN! YOU HAVE STOLEN MY GREATEST TREASURE! FOR THIS, YOU DIE!



CAUTIOUSLY, SLADEN FORCES OPEN THE CASE, UNTIL...

L-LOOK AT HIM... HE'S GLOWING FROM HEAD TO TOE! AND HIS EYES... THEY'RE STARTING TO OPEN! YAAA!





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THAT GLOW ON HIS BODY--IT MUST BE FROM THE LIFE FLUID! THAT'S WHAT'S KEPT HIM ALIVE ALL THESE YEARS! BUT I'M PROTECTED BY THE SAME FORMULA... HE CAN'T HURT ME!



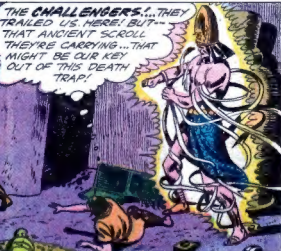
BUT AS THE CRIMINAL TRIES TO HOLD OFF THE ANCIENT KING...

TORBERT FORGOT... THE EFFECTS OF THE FLUID HE DRANK ARE RUNNING OUT! THE PHARAOH KNOCKED HIM OVER LIKE A PAPER PUPPET!

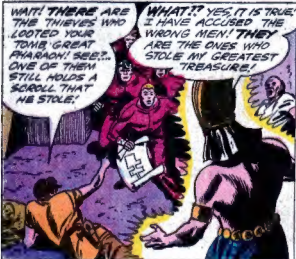


JUST THEN...

GREAT SCOTT! THE PHARAOH--ALIVE! AND HIS BODY--GLOWING FROM HEAD TO TOE!

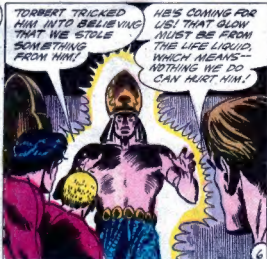


THE CHALLENGERS!...THEY TRAILED US HERE! BUT--THAT ANCIENT SCROLL THEY'RE CARRYING...THAT MIGHT BE OUR KEY OUT OF THIS DEATH TRAP!



WAIT! THERE ARE THE THIEVES WHO LOOTED YOUR TOMB GREAT PHARAOH! SEE?... ONE OF THEM STILL HOLDS A SCROLL THAT HE STOLE!

WHAT!? YES, IT IS TRUE! I HAVE ACCUSED THE WRONG MEN! THEY ARE THE ONES WHO STOLE MY GREATEST TREASURE!

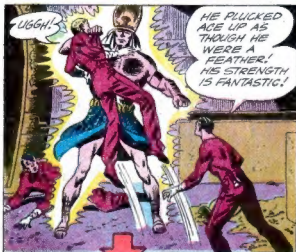


TORBERT TRICKED HIM INTO BELIEVING THAT WE STOLE SOMETHING FROM HIM!

HE'S COMING FOR US! THAT GLOW MUST BE FROM THE LIFE LIQUID, WHICH MEANS--NOTHING WE DO CAN HURT HIM!

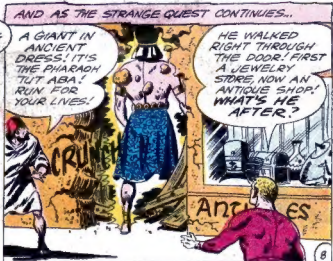
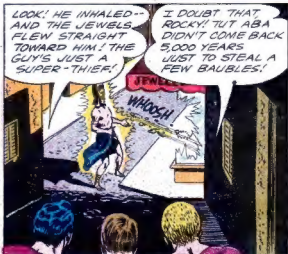
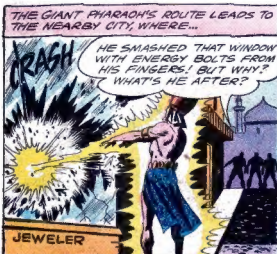


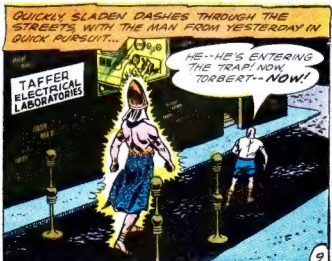
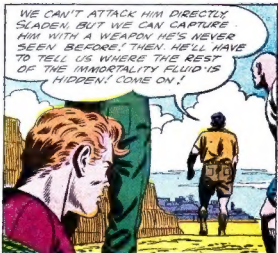
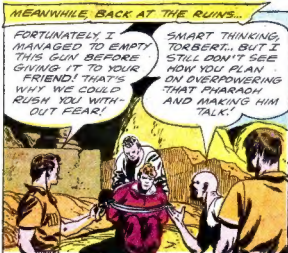
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN







CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



INSIDE THE DESERTED LABORATORY, TORBERT FLIPS A SWITCH ON HIS HASTILY ERRECTED TRAP, AND...

AYEEE!

WE'VE GOT HIM! HE'S TRAPPED BY ELECTRICITY-- AND HIS ANCIENT MUMBO-JUMBO CAN'T HANDLE THAT!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, TUT ABA THROWS HIS ASTOUNDING BODY AGAINST THE BOLTS OF ENERGY, BUT...

I CANNOT PIERCE THAT MAGIC LIGHTNING!

IT IS USELESS TO STRUGGLE FURTHER, PHAROAH, FOR MY MAGIC IS GREATER THAN YOURS! NOW YOU WILL TELL US WHERE THE IMMORTALITY FLUID IS-- OR WE SHALL NEVER RELEASE YOU!

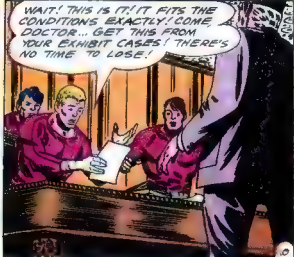
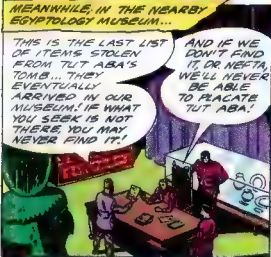


MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY EGYPTOLOGY MUSEUM...

THIS IS THE LAST LIST OF ITEMS STOLEN FROM TUT ABA'S TOMB... THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED IN OUR MUSEUM! IF WHAT YOU SEEK IS NOT THERE, YOU MAY NEVER FIND IT!

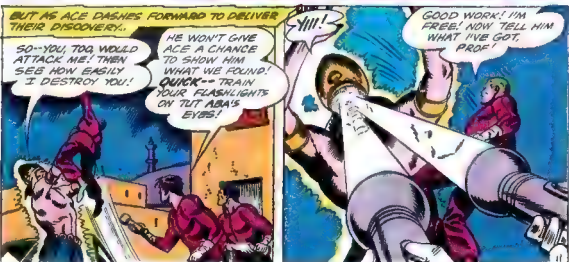
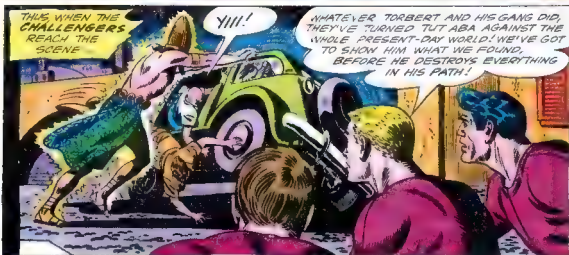
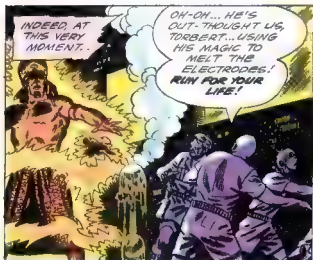
AND IF WE DON'T FIND IT, DR. NEFTA, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PLACATE TUT ABA!

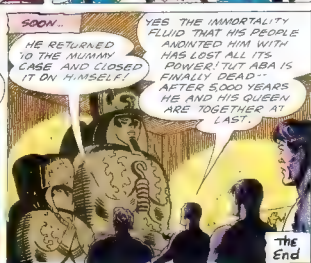
WAIT! THIS IS IT! IT FITS THE CONDITIONS EXACTLY! COME, DOCTOR... GET THIS FROM YOUR EXHIBIT CASES! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN





Your Passport to AMAZING ADVENTURES!

GREATEST ADVENTURE

ON SALE FEB. 8

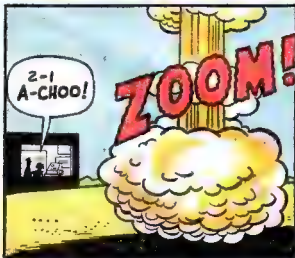
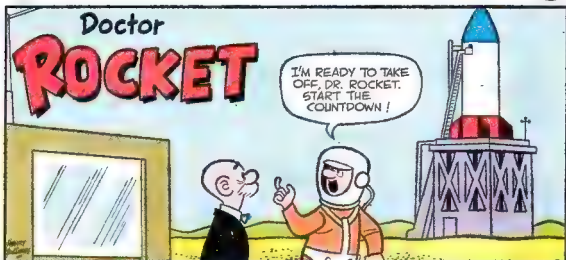
UNEXPECTED

ON SALE FEB. 15

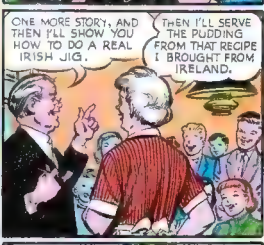
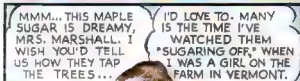
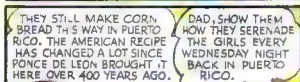
BLACKHAWK

ON SALE FEB. 8

TODAY'S MOST ELECTRIFYING MAGAZINES!



Buzzy asks: "DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS?"





CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



JUMPING JONAH!
LOOK AT THAT THING!
IT'S STRONGER
THAN 100 MEN!

CORRECT!
YOU ARE
ALL
HELPLESS
AGAINST MY
SCIENTIFIC
CREATION!

FROM THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE HE CAME TO PLANET EARTH, SEEKING THE ONE ELEMENT THAT WOULD MAKE HIM MASTER OF HIS OWN WORLD! AND AGAINST HIS POWER, THE FAMED CHALLENGERS COULD NOT KEEP FROM BECOMING...

CAPTIVES of the ALIEN HUNTER

SOMEWHERE IN THE WOODED SUBURBS OF A GREAT CITY, A SCOUT MASTER LEADS HIS TROOPS THROUGH NATURE'S "LABORATORY"

"THINK OF IT! BOYS THIS GIANT OAK WAS ONCE NO BIGGER THAN THE TINY ACORN IN MY HAND!"

"G'GOLLY! THAT FLASHING THING IN THE SKY"

"M-MR FELIX! OUT THERE-- I JUST SAW IT-- A--A SPACESHIP!"

"NONSENSE, JOE IT MUST'VE BEEN SOME OPTICAL ILLUSION!"

BUT THAT EVENING IN A NEARBY RESORT AREA

"GULP! S-SOME KIND OF WEIRD BEING-- USING A FANTASTIC RAY WITH THE POWER OF A BOMB!"

AT DAWN, IN SECRET CHALLENGER MOUNTAIN, HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN...

"...AND THE BULLETIN SAID THE POLICE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO KEEP A TRACK ON THIS ALIEN."

"--SAY HE MUST BE AFTER SOME OBJECTIVE! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN SPOT HIM FROM THE A.R."

SHORTLY, AS THE FIVE FRIENDS BOARD THEIR CONVERTI-JET...

BY THE WAY, ROCKY-- WHERE'S OUR SPACE PET?"

HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ALL MORNING, JOE! TOO BAD. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN USEFUL AGAINST THIS ALIEN!"





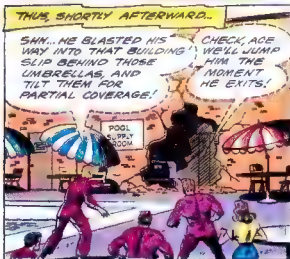
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



THE AERIAL SEARCH
SOON ENDS OVER
A LUXURIANT
COUNTRY CLUB...

THERE HE IS!
JUMPING JONAH!...
THAT RAY OF
HIS FROZE A
SECTION OF THE
IRON GATE --AND
SHATTERED IT
LIKE SO MANY
ICICLES!

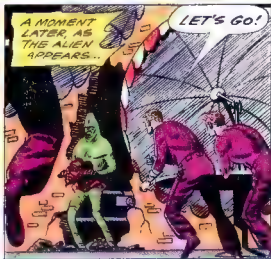
WHAT COULD HE
WANT THERE?
WE'D BETTER
LAND SOME
DISTANCE AWAY,
AND SLIP UP ON
HIM!



THUS, SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

SHH... HE BLASTED HIS
WAY INTO THAT BUILDING
SLIP BEHIND THOSE
UMBRELLAS, AND
TILT THEM FOR
PARTIAL COVERAGE!

CHECK, ACE
WE'LL JUMP
HIM THE
MOMENT
HE EXITS!



A MOMENT
LATER, AS
THE ALIEN
APPEARS...

LET'S GO!

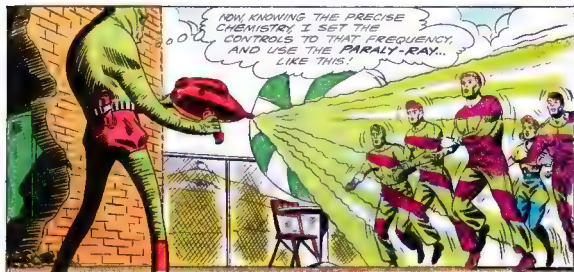


HE'S FIRING SOME KIND OF
BEAM AT US! BUT IT'S NOT
DOING ANYTHING TO US!

EARTHLINGS ATTACKING
ME! FIRST, I QUICKLY
ANALYZE THEIR BODY
CHEMISTRY WITH THE
ANALY-BEAM!



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



NOW, KNOWING THE PRECISE CHEMISTRY, I SET THE CONTROLS TO THAT FREQUENCY, AND USE THE PARALY-RAY... LIKE THIS!



PERFECT! THE EFFECTS OF THE RAY WILL WEAR OFF SHORTLY-- SO I'LL IMPRISON THEM IN A PLASTI-SPHERE!



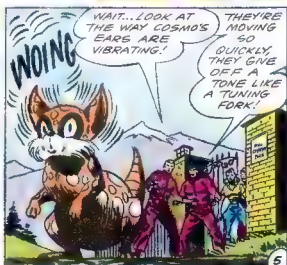
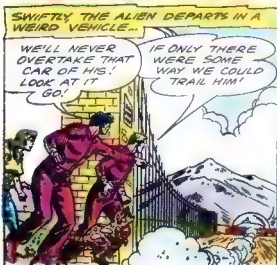
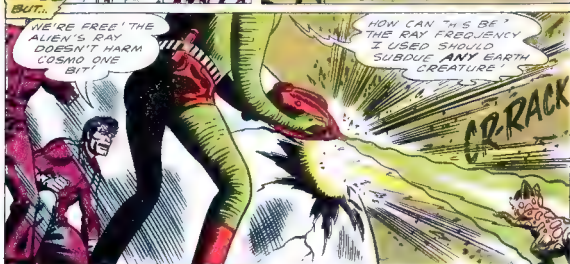
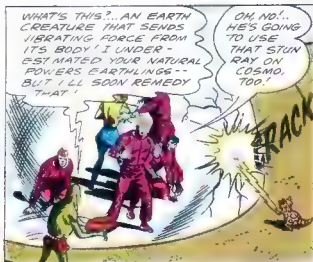
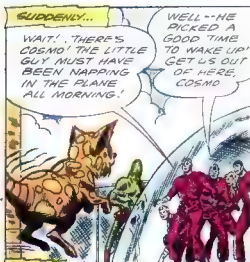
THERE-- THAT SHOULD HOLD THEM! NO WEAPON ON THIS BACKWARD PLANET CAN CRACK THAT SHELL!



A SHORT WHILE LATER...

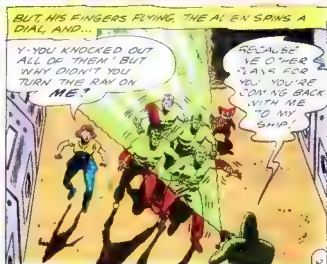
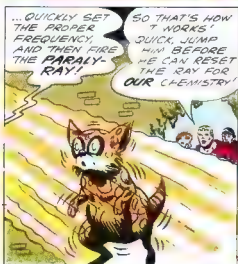
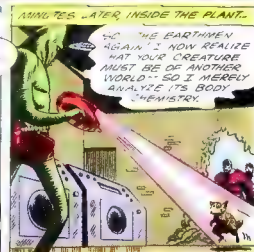
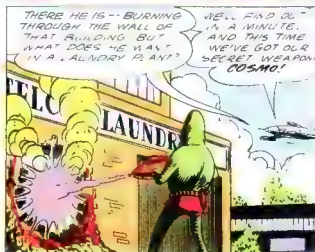
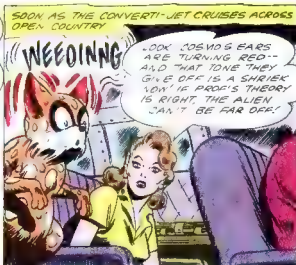
I SEE YOU'VE REVIVER EARTH PEOPLE! YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME, POUNDING AT THE PLASTIC WALL... IT IS BEYOND YOUR PUNY STRENGTH! HOWEVER, THAT HOLE ATOP THE SHELL WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH AIR!

HE COMMUNICATES THROUGH MENTAL IMAGES! WHAT A SUPER-RACE HE MUST COME FROM!... AND WE'RE HIS CAPTIVES!



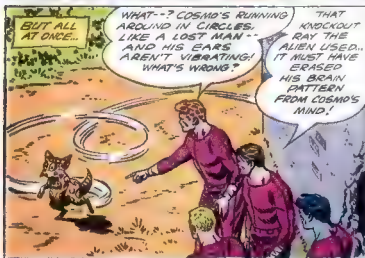


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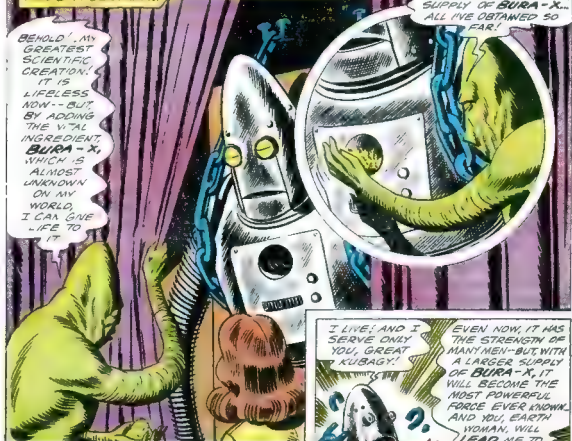
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



WITH A TRIUMPHANT FLOURISH, THE ALIEN PULLS ASIDE A CURTAIN...

WATCH CLOSELY, AS I INSERT THIS SMALL SUPPLY OF BURA-X... ALL I'VE OBTAINED SO FAR!

BEHOLD! MY GREATEST SCIENTIFIC CREATION! IT IS LIFELESS NOW-- BUT, BY ADDING THE VITAL INGREDIENT, BURA-X, WHICH IS ALMOST UNKNOWN ON MY WORLD, I CAN GIVE LIFE TO IT.

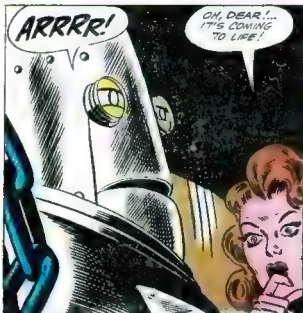


I LIVE! AND I SERVE ONLY YOU, GREAT KUBAGY!

EVEN NOW, IT HAS THE STRENGTH OF MANY MEN-- BUT, WITH A LARGER SUPPLY OF BURA-X, IT WILL BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE EVER KNOWN. AND YOU, EARTH WOMAN, WILL LEAD ME TO THAT SUPPLY!

ARRRR!

OH, DEAR!... IT'S COMING TO LIFE!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING... 8

FOSSIL that FOOLED the WORLD

FOR weeks, Dr. J. S. Weiner, an anthropologist from Oxford University, visited the British Museum to study and stare at the group of earliest "humans"—the Neanderthal Man, Peking Man, Heidelberg Man, and last, if not least, the Piltdown Man. It was this last one that attracted him most, not that it resembled a human frame as much as it was a collection of skull, teeth and bones that had come from the early Ice Age, a half million years ago!

Yet, doubts continued to plague the good doctor, and after dining one night with Kenneth Oakley, a prominent geologist, Dr. Weiner determined to risk his reputation by challenging the unknown. For Oakley had conducted chemical tests on the remains, which proved, to his great surprise, that the Piltdown Man was only 50,000 years old instead of the estimated half million! Intrigued by this discrepancy, Dr. Weiner had decided to press his investigation, despite the fact that the Piltdown Man had been exhumed by a fossil hunter named Charles Dawson back in 1912, and had been discreetly displayed at the highly respected British Museum for more than 40 years.

His first efforts gave him a hint that he was on the right track. Reading innumerable diaries and interviewing diggers who had worked for Dawson in the gravel pit at Piltdown Common in Southern England, Dr. Weiner learned that some fragments had indeed been unearthed, but that Dawson had found the vital skull and teeth himself, with nary a single witness to substantiate his claim. Hurrying to London with his finds, Dawson had disclosed the location of his excavation, instilling Arthur Woodward, the British Museum's prominent paleontologist, with so much enthusiasm that he chose to accompany Dawson back to the site. And there one night, to their great glee, the two men had resumed digging until a jaw lay exposed.

Respecting Woodward's faultless reputation as an eminent scientist beyond reproach, Dr. Weiner suspected that he had been victimized by Dawson's guile. He decided to make an experiment. Although the jaw seemed to be that of an ape, the teeth were flat on top. How could this be? Had Dawson tampered with them to make them look genuine? Dr. Weiner obtained several gorilla teeth, filed them down and stained them. Eureka! They were exactly like those of the Piltdown Man!

Flushed with success, knowing that he was within sight of victory, Weiner rushed to the British Museum, where he persuaded the Board of Directors to permit him to test the fossils. Back in 1912, when he had perpetrated his hoax, Dawson couldn't foresee the invention of such scientific apparatus as X-rays and Geiger counters and the development of a modern laboratory stocked with amazing chemicals. Dr. Weiner plunged into his task, for he had challenged the unknown, and now stood on the brink of baring the known! Days later, he released the stunning announcement: the Piltdown Man was a fake, an unmistakable, proven fraud of paint, chemicals, stain and bone ingeniously utilized to achieve the appearance of a genuine specimen.

Yet, Dr. Weiner wondered, what had led Charles Dawson to go to such fantastic lengths? Certainly, it wasn't money, because he had grandiosely presented the fossils to the museum. Had he sought immortal fame? That, too, was open to question, because, sooner or later in the years ahead, his scheme was sure to be revealed. Or had he tried to fool paleontologists and public alike, reveling until his death in 1916 in the mischief he had created?

The answer today still puzzles scientists. In December of 1953, the specimen billed as the Piltdown Man was removed from its display case which it had occupied since 1912.

LUCKY BREAK

THE EXPRESSION "LUCKY BREAK" OWES ITS MODERN DERIVATION TO CIRCUS SLANG, AND REFERRED TO THE CONDITION OF THE WEATHER. SNOW, RAIN, AND COLD MEANT A POSTPONEMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE--THE WEATHER "BROKE BAD"...



IN ANCIENT TIMES, SUPERSTITIOUS PRIMITIVES TRIED TO FRIGHTEN OFF INVISIBLE EVIL-DOERS WITH LOUD NOISES MADE BY SNAPPING TWIGS IN TWO. IF GOOD FORTUNE FOLLOWED, IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS "LUCKY BREAK"...



REMNANTS OF THIS ANCIENT BELIEF LINGER WITH US TODAY WHEN WE ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY LIKE TO PICK UP A STRAY TWIG, DRY WEED, OR MATCH--AND PLAYFULLY SNAP THEM IN TWO...



ANOTHER SURVIVAL OF SOUND TO COUNTER EVIL INFLUENCES IS IN THE SNAPPING OF FINGERS AND CRACKING OF KNUCKLES...

WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! I JUST REMEMBERED I LEFT SOME IMPORTANT PAPERS IN THE OFFICE! I'LL GO BACK AND GET THEM!



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CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



IN THE MEANTIME...

I'VE GOT IT! HE ATTACKED A **SWIMMING POOL SUPPLY ROOM** AND A **LAUNDRY!** THOSE TWO PLACES HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON-- **CHLORINE!**

OF COURSE! POOLS USE **CHLORINE** AS A **GERMICIDE**, AND **LAUNDRIES** AS A **BLEACH!** COME ON-- THERE'S A **CHLORINE PLANT** NOT FAR FROM HERE-- THAT'S BOUND TO BE HIS NEXT **TARGET.**

LAUNDRY

SO PRESENTLY, AT THE CHEMICAL PLANT...

IF THE **PLAN** GOES AS **OUTLINED**, WE MIGHT JUST HAVE A **CHANCE!** DON'T FORGET **YOUR PART, COSMO!**

HE WON'T, **ACE--** NOT AFTER THAT **LONG REHEARSAL!** LET'S GO!

AT THAT MOMENT, A STRANGE VEHICLE HALTS NEAR THE PLANT...

ACCORDING TO MY **COUNTER**, THERE IS INDEED A **HEAVY DEPOSIT OF BURA-X** IN THAT **BUILDING!** YOU HAVE DONE WELL TO LEAD ME **HERE, EARTH WOMAN!**

WHEN I **RETURN**, MY **ELECTRONIC MASTERPIECE**, I WILL HAVE ENOUGH **FUEL** TO MAKE YOU AN **INVINCIBLE WEAPON!**

VERY **GOOD, MASTER--** I AWAIT YOU!

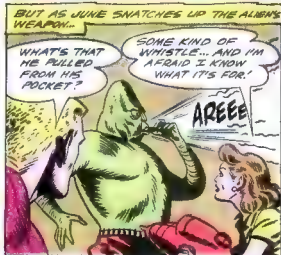
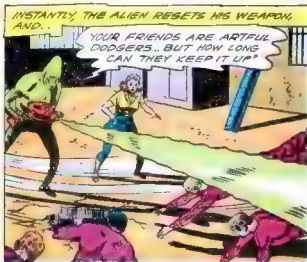
AS THEY ENTER THE GREAT PLANT...

ACE! ROCKY! THANK GOODNESS! I WAS HOPEING YOU'D **FIGURE OUT** IT WAS **CHLORINE** HE WANTED THAT'S WHY I LED HIM **HERE!**

SO... ONCE MORE YOU DEFY ME! ATTACKING FROM **THREE DIRECTIONS** IS **CLEVER** OF YOU-- KNOWING I MUST **RESET MY WEAPON** TO **HANDLE YOU AND THAT CREATURE...** BUT IT'S A **USELESS PLAN!**

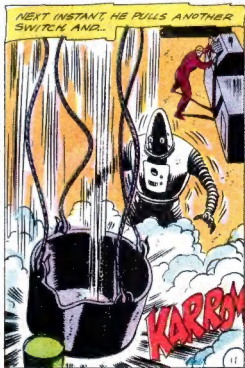
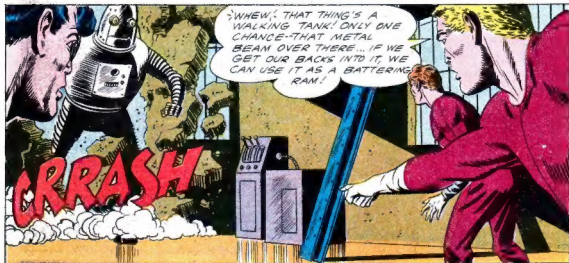


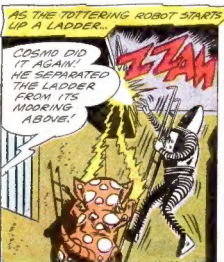
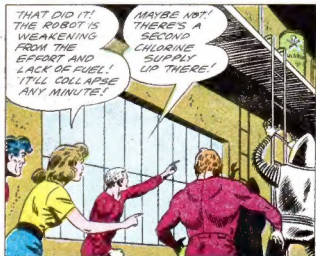
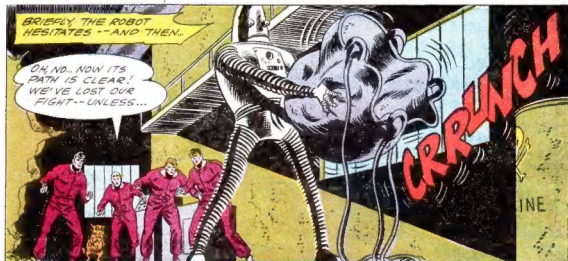
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

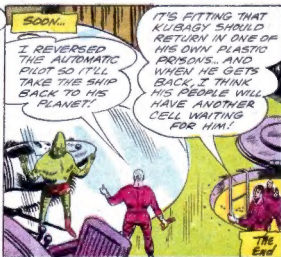
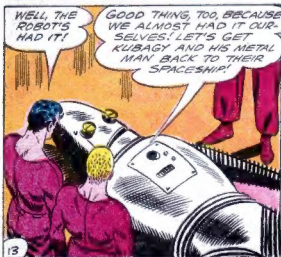
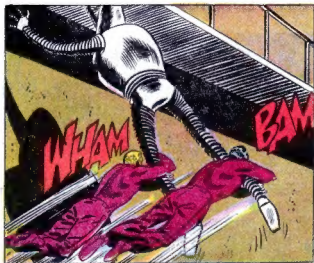




CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN







MORE STARTLING THAN
TOMORROW'S SCIENCE-FICTION
is the
METAL MEN

HEROES FORGED
 OUT OF SMOKE AND FLAME
 TO BATTLE UNIQUE THREATS!
 THIS METAL BAND LIVES--AND
 DIES FIGHTING FANTASTIC
 FURIES FOR MANKIND...

in the
 ASTONISHING
 APRIL ISSUE
 of

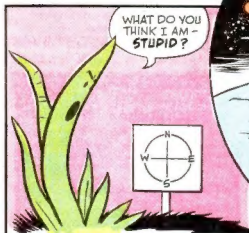
SHOWCASE



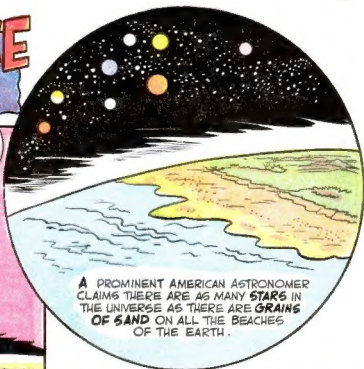
Don't
 Miss
 It!
 ON SALE
 Everywhere



SCIENCE Shorts



RESEARCHERS AT BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY DISCLOSED THAT SOME PLANTS CAN DISTINGUISH NOT ONLY UP FROM DOWN, BUT ALSO RIGHT FROM LEFT.



A PROMINENT AMERICAN ASTRONOMER CLAIMS THERE ARE AS MANY **STARS** IN THE UNIVERSE AS THERE ARE **GRAINS OF SAND** ON ALL THE BEACHES OF THE EARTH.



SWEDISH SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED THAT A PILOT EJECTED FROM A **JET** IS AN INCH SHORTER WHEN HE LANDS THAN WHEN HE TOOK OFF--THE JOLT PASSES HIS VERTEBRAE TOGETHER. BUT THE CONDITION IS ONLY TEMPORARY.



THE U.S. ARMY DEMONSTRATED A NEW TV DEVICE, WHICH ENABLES TROOPS TO OBSERVE COMBAT OPERATIONS IN THE DARK. DELIVERIES WILL START IN THREE YEARS.